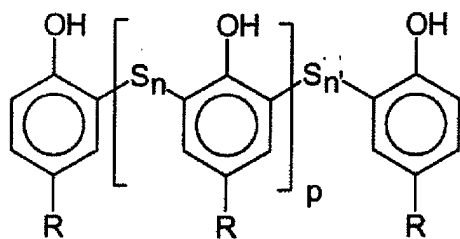


Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace the prior version in the application.

1. (currently amended) A sulfur-vulcanizable elastomeric composition comprising at least one diene elastomer and at least one reinforcing filler obtained by a process comprising mixing of said elastomer and said filler with an effective amount of a coupling agent consisting of a combination of:

- ~~10 to 90~~ 50-70 % of a product (I) consisting of a blend of poly(alkylphenol) polysulfides of formula:



(I)

in which:

- R is an alkyl radical containing 1 to 20, carbon atoms;
- n and n' are two integers, which may be identical or different, from 1 to 8;
- p is an integer from 0 to 50; and
- ~~10 to 90~~ 30-50 %, of a product (II) consisting of bis(triethoxysilylpropyl)tetrasulfide.

2. (currently amended) The elastomeric composition as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said at least one or more diene elastomers chosen is selected from the group consisting of polybutadiene and poly(styrene/butadiene) ~~are used~~.

3. (previously presented) The elastomeric composition as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a white reinforcing filler is used.

4. (original) The elastomeric composition as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the white filler is silica, by itself or as a mixture with alumina.

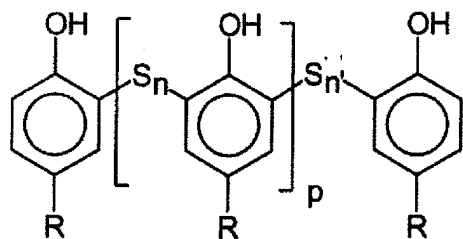
5. (previously presented) The elastomeric composition as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a mixture of compounds of formula (I) is used in which R is an alkyl radical containing at least one tertiary carbon via which R is linked to the aromatic ring.
6. (original) The elastomeric composition as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that R is a *tert*-butyl or *tert*-pentyl radical.
7. (previously presented) The elastomeric composition as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, in said blend of compounds of formula (I), a mixture is used in which the average value of n and of n' is about 2 and the average value of p is about 5.
8. (previously presented) The elastomeric composition as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the (I)/(II) weight ratio is from 1 to 3.
9. (previously presented) The elastomeric composition as claimed in one of claim 3, characterized in that it is obtained by mixing, with 100 parts by weight of diene elastomer(s):
- 10 to 200 parts by weight of white reinforcing filler; and
 - 0.5 to 10 parts by weight of said coupling agent.
10. (previously presented) The elastomeric composition as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that 50 to 100 parts by weight of silica and 5 to 7 parts by weight of the coupling agent are mixed with 100 parts by weight of said at least one diene elastomer.
11. (previously presented) The elastomeric composition as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that non-sulfur-containing additives are incorporated.
12. (previously presented) The elastomeric composition as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the diene elastomer, the reinforcing filler, the products (I) and (II) and the non-sulfur-containing additives are subjected to mechanical working, including at least one thermal step at a temperature of between 130°C and 170°C.

13. (currently amended) The elastomeric composition as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that a vulcanization system comprising ~~in particular~~ sulfur and vulcanization accelerators is added by mechanical working.
14. (canceled)
15. (previously presented) A molded article obtained by forming the composition as defined in claim 13 followed by heating.
16. (previously presented) The molded article as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that it is a tire tread.
17. (canceled)
18. (previously presented) The elastomeric composition of claim 1, characterized in that R contains 4 to 10 carbons atoms.
19. (previously presented) The elastomeric composition of claim 1, characterized in that n and n' are form 1 to 4
20. (canceled)
21. (previously presented) The elastomeric composition of claim 8 characterized in that the ratio(I)/(II) is about 2.
22. (previously presented) The elastomeric composition of claim 9 comprising between 20 and 150 parts by weight said white reinforcing filler.
23. (previously presented) The elastomeric composition of claim 9 comprising 2 to 8 parts by weight of said coupling agent.

24. (previously presented) The elastomeric composition of claim 12 characterized in that said temperature is between 130° and 150°.

25. (currently amended) A coupling agent comprising a combination of:

- ~~10 to 90~~ 50-70 %, of a product (I) consisting of a blend of poly(alkylphenol) polysulfides of formula:



(I)

in which:

- R is an alkyl radical containing 1 to 20, carbon atoms;
- n and n' are two integers, which may be identical or different, from 1 to 8,;
- p is an integer from 0 to 50,; and
- ~~10 to 90~~ 30-50 %, of a product (II) consisting of bis(triethoxysilylpropyl)tetrasulfide.

26. (previously presented) The elastomeric composition as claimed in claim 25, characterized in that a mixture of compounds of formula (I) is used in which R is an alkyl radical containing at least one tertiary carbon via which R is linked to the aromatic ring.

27. (previously presented) The elastomeric composition as claimed in claim 25, characterized in that the (I)/(II) weight ratio is from 1 to 3.

28. (previously presented) The elastomeric composition of claim 27 characterized in that the ratio(I)/(II) is about 2.